

The Intelligencer.

Gov. Stevenson's paper, the Parkersburg Journal, has got to be the theological paper par excellence of the State.

It is evident that England is making up her case at the European Court, and that she is making an impression on Austria and Italy. France, of course, has been with her all the time. The war feeling is unmistakably strong in England. Notice the constant mention of the vehement manifestations of public opinion.

Judging by the looks of things at the Baltimore & Ohio depot, shipments of merchandise to the interior from this market are at their minimum just now. In conversation with Capt. Devries yesterday, he informed us that shipments are very light and sluggish. He accounts for it mainly from the condition of the country roads, which have been for some time almost impassable for loaded wagons. Should the present fall of snow prove permanent, and the weather become crisp and cold, so that the country people can haul their stuff to market, trade would doubtless improve. There is yet a great deal of wool, wheat, corn, and a large number of hogs to be sold. The through business of the road is pretty fair at this time, and as soon as the country roads improve in the West it is expected to greatly improve.

The Parkersburg Revival.

The religious revival at Parkersburg continues with almost unabated interest. The Journal says that now converts come forward nightly, and "it would seem as if the fountain of sinners would soon be exhausted." It says that there is "no excitement seen or even felt, but the deep, earnest feeling that pervades the vast throng every night is depicted on every countenance." This is certainly wonderful, considering the time that has elapsed since Rev. Mr. Hammond started these meetings in Parkersburg. The Journal expresses the opinion that—

"It is no common feeling that now takes hold of the public in this city, but is a sentiment that reaches clear down to the bottom of the human heart and lifts the whole above all worldly considerations into the sunlight of religious thought and religious feeling. Our pastors are enduring the severe tax upon their physical beings with wonderful fortitude. They are doing an immense work, a work which needs in magnitude anything that has been seen here in a quarter of a century; and yet they show no signs of physical prostration, and say that the meetings shall continue as long as the interest is maintained, if it is a year. The morning meetings at the M. E. Church are still continued, and maintain their full interest and excellence."

The Silent Rolling Mills.

This is the caption of a gloomy article in the American Manufacturer, published at Pittsburgh. It is mainly a review of the progress made in this country in the way of producing cheap steel rails. It goes to show that the Bessemer process is bound to extend itself, and is already doing so, to other departments of iron consumption. Then, in that case, what is to become of the present rolling mills, in which only iron products can be turned out? Steel rails have long been talked of. There was a plan on foot some time ago to use the croppings of steel rails in their manufacture. No doubt something of the kind will yet be done. A steel rail could, it is estimated, be made 25 per cent lighter than an iron rail. See what a saving that would be in iron and in transportation, to say nothing of having a better rail.

The article takes the ground that steel is going to supplant iron in a multitude of uses—perhaps in nearly all uses. We are to see steel bars, steel beams, steel shafting, and steel naval architecture of all kinds. Already steel bars are sold at \$10 per ton, and \$2 per pound is asked for merchant bar. If steel rails can be made at a profit at \$40, what chance has iron at \$18 per hundred?

The Manufacturer says that in Great Britain both the Board of Trade and Lloyd's registry have authorized the use of steel in naval construction, and now allow frames and plates to be made of it 20 per cent lighter than frames and plates of iron. As steel rails at works in Sheffield or Wales cost now within only 12 shillings per ton of the cost of iron rails, and probably ship frames and plates of steel are as cheap in proportion, this decision of the Board of Trade at once puts steel on a better footing than iron. It will not be long before steel is used for shipbuilding in this country, and for a hundred other purposes for which iron is now used. Then it will be seen (says the Manufacturer) that our consumption of wrought iron will decrease, and "the number of our silent rolling mills will increase."

The Manufacturer thinks that the history of blast furnaces and rolling mills from this time forward is to be an illustration of the great doctrine of the "survival of the fittest." Of the "silent furnaces" it predicts that there are at least 200 that will never go into blast again. On this head it expresses itself thus:

"We cannot imagine that any such revival of the iron business is possible that will justify any of those furnaces to go that are badly located, that are of the lines of railroad, that are in districts where ore and fuel can no longer be obtained cheaply, or that are so small and insufficiently equipped that their labor cost per ton of iron must be excessive. The production and consumption of pig iron in this country is bound to increase. We have but little doubt that the consumption for 1878 will be greater than that of 1877, and that the consumption for 1879 will be still greater; but even if the increased consumption should be the greatest in our history, it can easily be supplied by four hundred of the seven hundred furnaces that are on the lists. What chance then is there for the other three hundred?"

This is certainly not a very cheerful outlook for a great number of blast furnaces throughout the country. And the view taken by the Manufacturer in regard to a large number of rolling mills, now

BY TELEGRAPH.

ASSOCIATED PRESS REPORT.

TO THE DAILY INTELLIGENCER.

CONGRESSIONAL.

The House Doorkeeper Charged with Corruption and Malfeasance in Office.

Chance for Civil Service Reform.

HOUSE.

WASHINGTON, February 1.—Mr. Baker, of Indiana, rising to a question of privilege, said that several days ago a gentleman well known to him brought him certain statements in writing involving grave, if not criminal, conduct on the part of the Doorkeeper of the House. He had taken no notice at the time, but when the gentleman returned with the statements in the form of affidavits, he felt that he should be false to his duty if he did not bring the matter to the notice of the House. Besides these statements there were also others which he would present. The first document contained the names of sixty-three employees on the rolls of the Doorkeeper in excess of the number authorized by law. He desired to have it read.

Mr. Baker then asked whether it would not be better to offer some resolution referring the whole matter to some committee. He was in favor of the fullest investigation, but no document derogatory to the Doorkeeper should go before the country before it had been investigated fairly and fully.

Mr. Baker then offered a resolution relating the charges of corruption and malfeasance in office; that he has required employees to do no other business for the House and that he is interested in the claims and bills now pending before Congress, and directing the Committee on Rules to inquire into the matter alleged against the Doorkeeper and report whether said Doorkeeper is guilty of the alleged charges and if that office ought not to be abolished.

Mr. Mills said he was glad the other side of the house was awakening to the question of civil service reform. Several years ago, at Boston Navy Yard several thousand men above the number authorized by law were employed. It was not until the House was informed of the matter that the excess was discontinued.

Mr. Baker then read the affidavits of the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. Banks), and the officer who had been removed during the whole time of that administration. Mr. Baker then read the affidavits of the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. Banks), and the officer who had been removed during the whole time of that administration.

Mr. McMahon, a member of the Committee on Accounts, defended the committee on the insinuation made against it in one of the affidavits, and said if the Doorkeeper could get all he wanted from it he wanted very little, for it had been the rule of that committee to give nothing except what was strictly according to law. In all his associations with Mr. Polk he had found him a perfect gentleman. He did not believe a select committee should be appointed, but that the matter should be referred to the Committee on Civil Service Reform. Great trouble was found in a system which allowed cases to be removed from office without cause.

At the end of the hour the House refused to second the previous question, so the discussion went on.

Mr. Roberts, chairman of the Committee on Accounts, testified that the gentleman from Indiana (Baker) was desirous of placing on others the responsibility of voting an appropriation of \$38,000,000 pay the extra force on the Doorkeeper's roll, while he (Baker) was as much responsible for the same. The Committee on Accounts had made no recommendation in regard to it. If this was to be made a party question he would go back to the last Congress and show that under Republican rule a like system prevailed, and that extra employees were paid out of the appropriation in bulk for the folding room which appropriation had since been cut down from \$80,000 to \$100,000.

Mr. Wright argued that if the roll of the employees was not sufficiently large it ought to be enlarged. He himself had one man appointed last October by the Doorkeeper (the only one he had got) and this man had been assigned to a committee of messengers, but because his name had not been put on the roll he (Wright) had to pay his compensation. People should not talk about economy when they robbed the laboring man. Some people believed a matter of faith in what was called purgatory.

A member—That has been abolished. Mr. Wright—I know that Beecher abolished a branch of it, but I don't understand hell and purgatory as synonymous. Purgatory is where you get the first blessing, then you come to real fire afterwards. That is hell. [Shouts of laughter.]

A member—It is a case of going farther and farther wrong. [Laughter.]

neighborhood of the Speaker. [Laughter.] I have gone through that ordeal so often that it ceases to be sensitive. I am no longer sensitive to these cries of demagoguism.

Mr. Bridges said his colleague if the man whose he paid had not been discharged by Polk without any cause being assigned.

Mr. Wright—No sir; that is the undertaking of all.

Mr. Bridges—He discharged a man of mine without assigning a cause.

Mr. Wright—I believe that Polk has done the best thing he could, for never has mortal man been oppressed with applicants for office as he has since he has been in that position. I have seen the corridor opposite his room so thronged with men, women, and children, that it was almost impossible to get through. He has told me, on repeated occasions, that this matter should not be made a political question.

Mr. Ellsworth—Has not Mr. Polk made a political question of refusing to appoint Republicans on his roll?

Mr. Wright—It has always been the custom of the party in power to take the spoils. I hope you will not begrudge the petty patronage of the House when the Republicans have all the patronage of the government.

Mr. Frye—If, with only the patronage of the House, Mr. Polk is so overwhelmed that the corridor opposite his office is full of hungry applicants, in heaven's name how will it be when you have the Presidency of the United States, with \$30,000 offices?

Mr. Wright—We are only treading in the footsteps of those who have gone before us.

Mr. Clymer contrasted the expenses of the House and of the Senate. He gave the figures of the House at \$280,000, and of the Senate at \$368,000 (or at the rate of \$368 for each Senator), and of the House at \$305,000 (or at the rate of \$101 for each member).

Finally, the previous question was seconded, and Mr. Baker's resolution was adopted. The House went into Committee of the Whole on the private calendar. After some time the committee rose and reported to the House on the private bills, principally pension bills, but no action was taken thereon.

Interesting Report of Our Delegation to Cuba—Tremendous Discrimination Against Americans.

NASHVILLE, February 1.—The Cuba delegation returned last evening. The subcommittee to investigate the floor and other trade of Havana, report to Col. John C. Barch, chairman of the general committee, that the great barrier to trade between Cuba and the United States is the discrimination of duties and war taxes, American flour being a special object of discrimination. The duty and war tax on American flour in United States vessels is \$6.88, against \$2.81 for Spanish flour in vessel; the whole tendency is in favor of Spanish importation and against the United States. By this discrimination only one-tenth of the flour imported into Cuba comes from the United States. If duties were equalized the United States would probably furnish the bulk of the consumption, and thus increase the demand on the United States for a million and a half of dollars of one article (flour) alone. A close examination of the records show an enormous difference between the small exports of the United States to Cuba and the amount we receive from the Island. Of the exportation of sugar and molasses from Cuba the States get 90 per cent, Europe 8 and Spain 2 per cent. The committee found Havana merchants eager to extend the American trade, but are unanimous in the opinion that under existing commercial treaties the prospect is not good. The committee cite for illustration the sale of two hundred barrels of flour per the New Orleans steamer of January 23d, which brought \$7,000, from which deduct \$9,954 for import duty and wages, freight, lightage and \$126 premium, leaving a net which leaves a net proceeds in Spanish bank bills of \$3,048.

When a steamer is necessary 10 cents per barrel per month, Spanish money, is charged. The committee find, in regard to trade, that prices fluctuate mutually in proportion to the supply and demand upon the whole, and as it now exists should be dealt with by our people with an eye of vigilance.

Dom Pedro Forms a New Ministry.

NEW YORK, February 1.—The *Pow* has a letter from Rio de Janeiro announcing that Dom Pedro has made up a new ministry, the public scandals attaching to the late ministry making this necessary. The new ministry is a well-established fact that the influence of Antonio Catagipe, Minister of Finance, was always best secured through the medium of a well known courtesan, with whom it was necessary to deposit a sum of money proportionate to the magnitude of the favor sought. During the sitting of the last Camera a certain firm of importers was detected in fraudulent practices in the Customs House, and an investigation developed the fact that Catagipe and a prominent merchant were the principals in the fraud. The firm had used their official position to facilitate and conceal a long continued system of fraud against the government. Catagipe did not deny his interest in the firm, but simply denied any knowledge of its fraudulent practices. 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